

27th February 1928] [Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar]

"Another opinion that we obtained was this :

'The drug "Poorum" or "Rasakarpur" is Hydrargyri sub-chloridum or sub-chloride of mercury. It is commonly sold in all the Indian drug shops. Native physicians are using it in the preparation of purgative pills, oils and specifics which are generally indicated in the treatment of syphilis and other kindred diseases. It is said that it is also sometimes used for removing impurities in gold.

'It is the opinion of some of the practising native doctors that this substance is not so poisonous as other drugs such as extract of nux-vomica, cotton seeds or belladonna. Any restrictions placed on its sale may affect the Ayurvedic system of medicine.'

"In these circumstances it was considered that there was no case for making Rasakarpur come under the Poisons Act. Opinions are divided and as a matter of fact stronger poisons are found on sale in the bazaars. This is one of the specifics which are used in the Ayurvedic system of medicine and it seems to me it will be inexpedient to bring any restriction into operation. Of course that it can be misused is a fact. But similarly croton and many others may be misused and are misused sometimes. That is no reason for accepting this resolution and Government feel that they cannot accept it."

* Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—"Sir, the fact that Ayurvedic doctors make use of the drug in their daily practice is no excuse for the drug being sold without any licence to the ignorant people. On the recommendation of the Ayurvedic physicians, the drugs may be issued by the vendor. As there have been many acute cases of poisoning reported, I most respectfully press upon the attention of the Government that an immediate enquiry be instituted and statistics of cases of poisoning by the drug may be collected and if necessary the sale of the drug may be brought under some restriction so that the lay public may not have an easy access to such an injurious drug."

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, Government have no objection to cause another enquiry to be started on the basis of the remarks made by the Deputy President. But in the present form they cannot accept the resolution."

Dr. (Mrs.) S. MUTHULAKSHMI REDDI :—"On the assurance given by the hon. the Law Member, I withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

The following resolution standing in the name of Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu was deemed to have been withdrawn as the hon. Member was not in his seat :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that the investigation of a supply channel to Dondapadu tank in Vinnkonda taluk of Guntur district from Kondleru scheme be taken up immediately and necessary expenditure for taking levels, etc., be sanctioned."

THE KALLAR RECLAMATION WORK.

* Rajkumar S. N. DORAI RAJA :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move the following resolution, namely :—

'That this Council recommends to the Government that they may be pleased to entrust the Kallar reclamation work at Tanjore to the Revenue Department and not to the Police Department as is done at present.'

"Sir, we, Kallars, are not unaware of the laudable intentions of the Government in trying to ameliorate our condition. The method by which these good intentions are sought to be translated into action is positively humiliating, undesirable and unjust. Why on earth the name of 'Kallar' came to

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noon.

[Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja]

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be synonymous with the word 'thief' is beyond my comprehension. We are suffering for the fault of others. To apply to us the Criminal Tribes Act, the most barbarous and an antediluvian one, may I say in all humility, denotes bankruptcy of statesmanship and positive ignorance of the conditions that prevail in Kallar Nadu at Tanjore. Our trouble is purely economic and our concern is how to get one square meal a day. The rebellion of the stomach is the worst kind of rebellion. There are two aspects of Kallar Reclamation, namely, positive and negative. The crying need of the hour is rural reconstruction and economic development of the villages. To entrust the positive side of the Kallar Reclamation work to the Police officers is an anomaly. It is an officer of the Revenue Department, preferably an Indian Civil Service, sympathetic officer, that will be more competent by his broad outlook and all-round administrative training to handle profitably and beneficially these Kallar village rural economic development problems, than the subordinate Police officer who is a good subordinate but a bad master and whose Bible is the Police order book and the Criminal Procedure Code and whose armoury is full of brute force and ignorance. The attitude of an officer entrusted with this sacred humanitarian work amongst the poor class of illiterate ryots should be that of a reformatory type rather than of a penalizing type. Sir, we ask for bread and we are given stones. Every stone in Southern India is wet with Kallar blood for the sake of the Union Jack which you and I admire and reverence, and for which you and our people are ready to die. We do not trade upon our loyalty which is a sacred sentiment to us? But, Sir, may I ask, is this the right treatment to be given to us? I think not, and do not think this is the intention of the Government. Sir, I am sorry if I have spoken with some heat and used strong expressions. I reserve my further remarks till I have had the pleasure of hearing the hon. the Home Member who is in charge of this portfolio."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, I have listened very carefully to the speech of the hon. the Mover of this resolution. I am not at all convinced of the reasons advanced by him. We should remember that these Kallars are a criminal tribe, a tribe which is famous for its criminal propensities, and as such I do not see how it is possible for the Police to give up all their responsibility towards them. Further, it should be remembered that the items of reclamation work consist of (1) the formation of panchayats, (2) the assignment of land for cultivation and loans to cultivators, (3) the starting of cottage industries, (4) the spread of co-operative movement, (5) the securing of employment for fellow labourers, (6) the spread of education, and (7) the introduction of the scout movement. The last six items of work mentioned by me can certainly be discharged by any officer other than that of the Police. But it is impossible that the Police can give up their responsibility with regard to the formation of panchayats. We have brought into existence a number of panchayats in various villages. It is the duty of the panchayats to see that no crime is committed in them. When any crime is committed, it is the duty of the panchayat to bring it to the notice of the Police. Therefore the Police have to come into contact very closely with the panchayatdars. As such I find it is impossible for Government to accept this resolution. I may say at the same time that the Kallars in Tanjore enjoy an advantage which is denied to the Kallars in Ramnad and Madura. The Kallars of Tanjore have not been brought under the Criminal Tribes Act, whereas their brethren in Ramnad and Madura have been brought

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under that Act. I may tell my hon. Friend who moved this resolution that a time will come when we can dispense with the Police agency and give this work to the agency suggested by him. But that time has not yet come. We should also remember that though the agency employed belongs to the Police department, the whole work of the reclamation of Kallars is in the hands of the Commissioner of Labour."

• * Rajkumar S. N. DORAI RAJA :—"I am afraid, Sir, the answer given by the hon. the Home Member is perfectly unsatisfactory. I think it is adding insult to injury. The analogy that we are treated better than the districts of Madura and Ramnad seems to be a very poor argument. After all, the officers of the Revenue Department, especially the Indian Civil Service officers, who have a broad outlook and sympathy with the backward classes ought to be put in charge of this humanitarian and sacred work and not the Police officer. It is a fallacy, I say it a thousand times over, that Kallars are criminals. There are no more criminals in our community than there are in others. I can prove it by statistics. It is not a question of eat and live, but it is a question of honour, it is a question of life and death. Three villages were selected in my district for the enforcement of the Criminal Tribes Act, and I showed the Collector then in charge, with the aid of statistics, that other communities in these three villages committed as many crimes and as voluntarily as the Kallar community. Why should we be given a bad name and then be hanged? And for whose fault, I ask? The reply given by the hon. the Home Member is perfectly unsatisfactory. I therefore press the resolution on the attention of all Members here and appeal to them in the name of chivalry and in the name of justice to support it."

The question was put and declared lost.

Rajkumar S. N. Durai Raja demanded a poll and the House divided thus :—

Ayes.

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| 1. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai. | 28. Mr. W. O. Wright. |
| 2. The Zamindar of Seithur. | 29. " C. R. T. Congreve. |
| 3. Mr. C. D. Appavoo Chettiyar. | 30. " A. T. Luker. |
| 4. " H. B. Ari Gowder. | 31. " S. N. Dorai Raja. |
| 5. " A. Balakrishna Shetty. | 32. " S. Arpudaswami Udayar. |
| 6. " J. Bheemayya. | 33. The Zamindar of Gollapalli. |
| 7. " J. A. Davis. | 34. Mr. M. R. Seturathnam Ayyar. |
| 8. Rao Sahib M. Hampayya. | 35. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan. |
| 9. Mr. V. Ch. John. | 36. Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Syed. |
| 10. Mahmud Schahmad Sahib Bahadur. | 37. Mr. S. Muttayya Mudaliyar. |
| 11. Mr. Mupil Nayar. | 38. " P. Siva Rao. |
| 12. " R. Nagan Gowda. | 39. The Raja of Ramnad. |
| 13. " T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai. | 40. Syed Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur. |
| 14. " C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar. | 41. Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar. |
| 15. " Ramanath Goenka. | 42. " A. V. Bhanoji Rao. |
| 16. " N. Siva Raj. | 43. " B. Ramachandra Reddi. |
| 17. " M. V. Gangadhara Siva. | 44. Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar. |
| 18. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami | 45. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro. |
| 19. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai. | 46. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar. |
| 20. " W. P. A. Soundarapandia Nadar. | 47. " P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu. |
| 21. " T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. | 48. Mr. T. K. Chidambaramatha Mudaliyar. |
| 22. " V. Ramjee Rao. | 49. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddi. |
| 23. " Thomas Daniel. | 50. Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu. |
| 24. " S. Venkayya. | 51. " K. Sitarama Reddi. |
| 25. " K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar. | |
| 26. " K. Krishnan. | |
| 27. Sir James Simpson. | |

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Noes.

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| 1. The hon. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar. | 7. The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan. |
| 2. " Sir Norman Marjoribanks. | 8. Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastryar. |
| 3. " Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur. | 9. " F. B. Evans. |
| 4. " Mr. T. E. Moir. | 10. " H. A. Watson. |
| 5. " Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogya-swami Mudaliyar. | 11. " A. McG. C. Tampoe. |
| 6. " Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar. | 12. " S. H. Slater. |
| | 13. " C. B. Cotterell. |
| | 14. " R. Foulkes. |

Neutral.

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| 1. Mr. P. J. Gnanavaram Pillai. | 12. Mr. D. Narayana Raju. |
| 2. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur. | 13. K. Uppi Sahib Bahadur. |
| 3. Mr. Al. Ar. Narayanan Chettiyar. | 14. Mr. C. Marudavanam Pillai. |
| 4. " Sami Venkatchalam Chetti. | 15. " A. Parasurama Rao Pantulu. |
| 5. " C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar. | 16. " C. Rama Somayajulu. |
| 6. " K. Koti Reddi. | 17. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib Bahadur. |
| 7. " C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar. | 18. Mr. Biswanath Das. |
| 8. " G. Harisaravottama Rao. | 19. " K. R. Karant. |
| 9. Abdul Hamid Khan Bahadur. | 20. " K. Madhavan Nayar. |
| 10. Mr. K. V. R. Swami. | 21. " C. Venkatarangam Nayudu. |
| 11. " Muhammad Meera Ravuttar. | 22. " B. Venkataratnam. |

Ayes 51 ; Noes 14 ; Neutral 22.

The resolution was carried.

CONTROL OF VILLAGE PORAMBOKES

* The ZAMINDAR OF GOLLAPALLI :—" Sir, I move—

'That this Council recommends to the Government to hand over the control of village porambokes to the local boards concerned as was the case prior to G.O. No. 4780, L. & M., dated 10th November 1926.'

" Sir, it has been stated that the reason for excluding such lands from the purview of the Local Boards Act is that the local boards have not at present the necessary staff to watch the encroachment thereon. If that is so, I submit that the local boards could have been consulted in the matter.

" The Board of Revenue also did not seem to have felt any reluctance to help the local bodies in the matter of detection of encroachments thereon as the work can be done by the karnam in the ordinary course of his duties—vide orders contained in B.P. No. 855 (Land Revenue and Settlement), dated 10th April 1925 and Board's Proceedings (Land Revenue and Settlement), dated 7th October 1924. It is not clear whether the Board of Revenue has rescinded these orders. If the Revenue Department had been asked to shoulder the responsibility of removing the encroachments on such areas, the position taken by it in paragraph 3 of the Government Order might be reasonable. Many of the boards did not seek the aid of the Revenue Department in the matter of removal of encroachments on any lands vested in them and it is obviously unfair to the boards that they should be deprived of ownership of such lands without being consulted.

(At this stage the hon. the Deputy President took the Chair.)

12-15 P.M. " With the advent of Reforms many of the provisions of the present Local Boards Act have been designed with the object of giving more powers and responsibilities to local boards in the matter of providing simple amenities to